

and the dorsal fin is well developed with a few dark spots on it at this stage. The dorsal half of the body and head gets grey coloured when the fry is 1.5 cm. in length. The coloured spots on the body show a tendency to group into descending bars on the sides of the body when the fry is between 1.5 and 2 cm. in length. On the dorsal side of the head, the spots group into a V-shaped pattern. When the fry is 2.5 cm. in size, 8 greyish bars are completely formed, 5 being predorsal. By the time the young fish attains 6 cm. in size, 11 bars (6 predorsal) are developed. The full adult features are attained when the fish reaches a size of 7 cm., 12 bars now being distinct. Thereafter, a gradual reduction in the number of bars take place. In the adults these bars become indistinct this observation substantiates Day's statement on this point.

The Barils are eaten by the poor people. They are popular with the anglers as one of the lesser fly takers. The fish are also useful on a moderate scale, as larvicides, especially in the hill ranges.

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FISHERIES BRANCH,

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE,
MADRAS.

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25.—PARAFFIN WAX AS A PROTECTION AGAINST TERMITES.

As the value of the paraffin wax in checking the depredations of termites (whiteants) does not seem to be generally known, I should like to call your readers' attention to it through your columns.

My first knowledge of it came from sleeping on the ground when camping in a Madras compound which proved to be riddled with termite runs. Several of us used water-proof ground-sheets that we had prepared from unbleached calico by sprinkling grated paraffin wax over it and then running this into the fibre by passing a very hot iron very slowly over it. In the morning the undersides of these ground-sheets were found to be covered with termite mud,

but to be unharmed and to have served as a complete protection to everything upon them, whereas all campers without them had had their blankets and some even their pyjamas badly eaten, some of the blankets having been reduced to rags.

At that time termites were a constant menace to the books in the Connemara Public Library, where almost all the shelves were built into the walls. In view of the above experience, therefore, I tried coating the insides of all the book-cases with paraffin wax. A great improvement resulted immediately, though termites quickly found their way through any small gaps that had inadvertently been left. This incidentally made these easy to locate and to fill in, since when all trouble from termites has ceased, the danger having been completely and apparently finally averted, for it is now a number of years since the treatment was effected. And the same method has subsequently been used with equal success in almirahs and boxes elsewhere.

Obviously paraffin wax cannot be thus used everywhere. But wherever it can it affords complete and certain protection.

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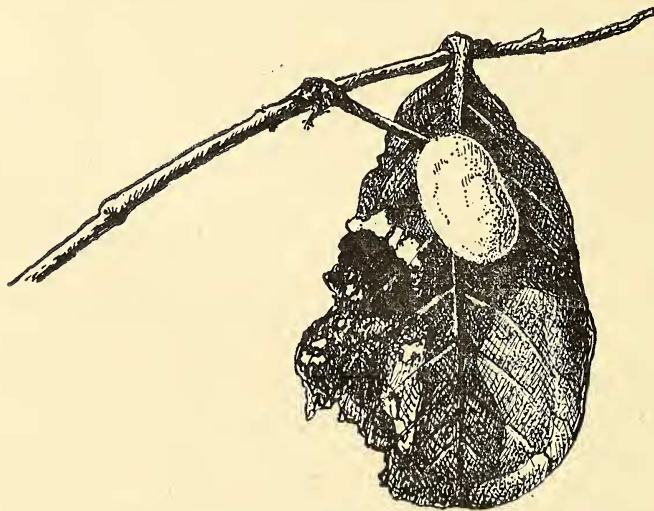
F. H. GRAVELY.

2nd February 1945.

26.—SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE PUPA OF THE TUSSAR SILK MOTH.

(With a text-figure.)

Last year (1944) on the 31st of January Mr. Sálím Ali and I found a cocoon of the Tussar Silk Moth (*Antheraea paphia* Linn.)



Cocoon *in situ* showing precautionary 'stem'.

[From a photo by W. T. Loke.]

which was attached to the upper side of a large leaf of *Terminalia catappa*. Besides being attached to the leaf, the cocoon was fur-